I would, therefore, urge the Minister of Surface Transport to act immediately on the above recommendation and entrust to the Directorate General of Border Roads the responsibility of maintenance of NH 52 between Balipara and Jonal in the North Bank of Assam.

(iv) **Need to take steps to check illegal mining of coal in the country**

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, After nationalisation of Coal mines, some small mines were abandoned by declaring them unprofitable but illegal mining has been continuing in these mines as a result of which the Government is suffering losses as also ecological imbalance is being caused in the region due to unscientific mining. Many accident have occurred in these mines due to hazardous mining.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that these mines should be handed over to the state Government so that these coal mines could be exploited to provide benefit to the state.

(v) **Need to grant more functional Autonomy to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited**

[English]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : As part of liberalisation scheme, the Government has set up Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). The Disinvestment Commission, in its third report, has nailed the bureaucratic and administrative controls of the Department of Telecommunication (DOT) which plague the working of the MTNL, particularly when private competition rides high in Delhi and Mumbai basic telecom circles. The Commission has expressed the opinion that the linkages between the DOT and the MTNL need to be dismantled so that the MTNL could function with maximum efficiency and fetch best possible price in the next tranche of disinvestment. The DOT should stop treating the MTNL as its own extension unit. Further, the MTNL should be vested with maximum autonomy and corporate powers in their management and functioning to enable it to fulfil their new role in the telecom area.

I request the Government to implement the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission in relation to the MTNL on a top priority basis.

(vi) **Need to provide Civic Amenities to residents of Union Territory of Chandigarh**

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, thousand of people in the Union Territory of Chandigarh are living in their own houses constructed outside the Lal Dora land of villages. Similarly thousands of people are living in slum clusters in the city. Out of the total population of 7-8 lakhs as many as one lakh persons have not been provided electricity and water connections. The basic amenities like drinking water, roads and sewerage are also not available there. These people are struggling since long to get these amenities.

Not only this, some officers of the Chandigarh administration are pursuing the policy of demolishing such houses in some parts of the city. During the last few days some pucca houses have also been demolished in labour colony, Shanti Nagar, Manimajra, Shakti Nagar colony sector 41-A, and sector 37 including Palsora Colony without serving any proper notice resulting loss of property worth lakhs of rupees. Such activities causes resentment among people.

This year we are celebrating 50th year i.e. golden jubilee of our independence. Therefore, it is imperative for the Union Government to make efforts to remove injustice being meted out to every citizen on this occasion.

At the end I demand from Union Government that basic amenities like electricity, water, sewerage and ration cards should be provided immediately to each citizen living in Chandigarh irrespective of the fact they live in village, colony or any other part of the city. Further policy of demolishing the constructed houses should be banned and where houses have been demolished illegally, compensation should be paid to the owners of such houses and action should be taken against the guilty officers.

(vii) **Need to take steps to check incidents of burning alive of people due to practising of sorcery in Andhra Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : Sir, the incidence of burning alive of people accused of practising sorcery is on the increase in the district of Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh, putting the civilised society to shame. Not only the alleged practitioners of sorcery are the victims of the bizarre murders, but the Naxalites, police informers and highway robbers are also meeting with the same fate.

Sir, the Kammanapally incident which took place in April, 1977 claimed the lives of three persons, including an aged woman. The gruesome practice was being adopted by the villagers to settle scores. Seventeen persons, including five women and a girl were roasted alive in the district of Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh during the last five years. On an average, three persons are becoming victims of this shameful and aboriginal practice. Even in this computer era, several people, particularly the rural folk, strongly believe that black magic and sorcery could cause psychological and physical problems. They also believe that if goddesses get angry, the villagers would be affected with diseases like cholera, small pox and so on. They also tend to believe that sorcery and witchcraft was the reason behind fire accidents and natural calamities.

I urge the Union Government that steps should be taken or the State Government of Andhra Pradesh should be